

# EQUINE WELFARE IN COMPETITION

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JANUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017



## OBJECTIVES

- Write a small compendium of general horse welfare regulations and the current FEI (federation equestre international) dressage regulations.
- To compare the data obtained with the results of the scientific studies to broadcast the critical points witch influence the competition horse welfare negatively.
- To know the reality in spanish dressage competition through the analysis of a detailed questionnaire sent to 60 profesional dressage riders.

## FIVE FREEDOMS

(general welfare of the horse)



freedom from hunger, malnutrition and thirst



freedom from physical and thermal discomfort



freedom from pain, injury and disease



freedom from fear and distress



freedom to express normal patterns of behavior

## Transport Welfare

THE COMPETENCE AND RESPONSABILITIES of animal handlers should at a minimum address knowledge, and ability.

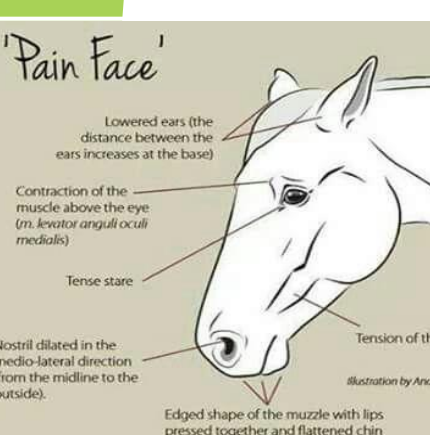


### planning a journey

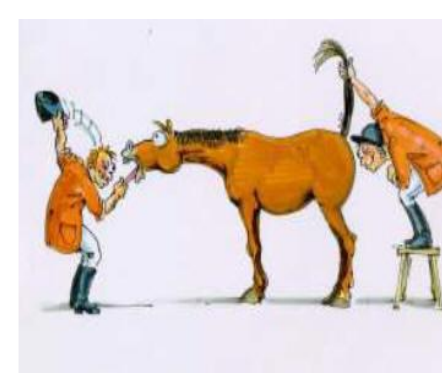
Space in the vehicle, and feed, water and ventilation requirements



responsibilities for animals during the journey, loading and unloading



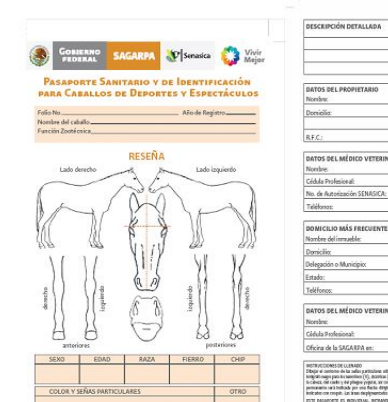
animal behaviour, general signs of disease, and indicators of poor animal welfare such as stress, pain and fatigue



appropriate methods of animal handling and methods of inspecting animals



general disease prevention procedures, cleaning and disinfection



Documentation requirements



assessment of fitness to travel: the animal should be examined by a veterinarian

## CONCLUSIONS

With the review of the regulation of animal welfare and competition, we can conclude that it is por and not especific to evaluate the welfare of horse. The creation of a more specific evaluation protocols are necessary bouth in general welfare and competition regulation, specially in dressage. Although the research is gaining recognition and interest in this area is not being reflected in the courrent regulation and we think thath would be modify. Competition rules regulate equine welfare factors with greater seriousness and specificity. Nonetheless, more stringent valuation methods could be applied and some points should be modified without delay like bit, spurs and noseband tightness regulation.

## FEI (Fédération Equestre Internationale) CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE

### General Welfare:

- Good horse management stabling and feeding.
- Training methods for horses.
- Tack and foot care.
- Transport.

### Fitness to compete:

- Athletic Fitness.
- General health status.
- Doping and medication.
- Recent surgical procedures.
- Pregnant/recently foaled.
- Misuse of aids.

### Events must not prejudice horse welfare

- Competition areas.
- Ground.
- Extreme weather competitions.

### Humane treatment of horses

- Veterinary treatment.
- Referral centers.
- Competition injuries.
- Humanitary euthanasia.
- Retirement.

### Education

- The FEI urges all those involved in equestrian sport to attain the highest possible levels of education in areas of expertise relevant to the care and management of the Competition Horse.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

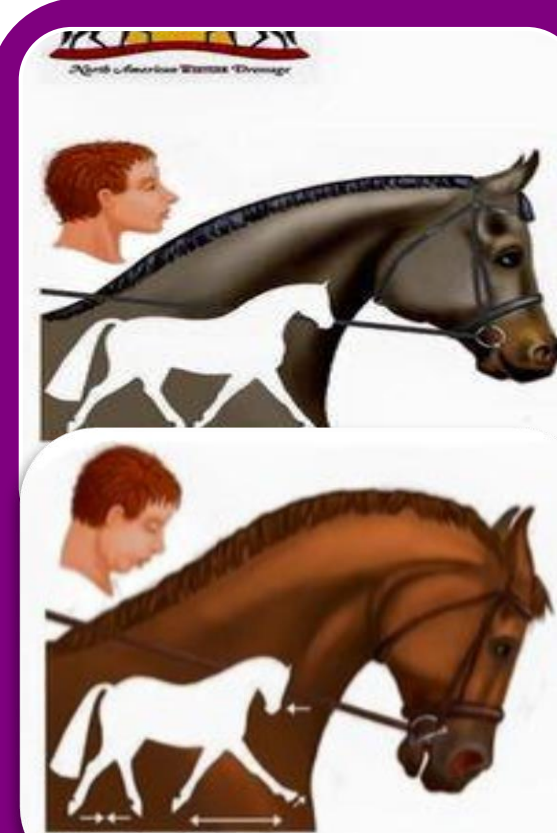


### AFTER COMPETITION



- Transport 73,5% / **waiting time 47,1%**
- Vet check neurectomy and infectious disease 70,6%
- Commissary 55,9%
- Box dimensions 67,6% / **61,8%**

### DURING COMPETITION



- Snaffle vs Double bridle 88,2%
- Rollkur 91,2%
- Spurs 82,4%
- Saturation of horses in arena 76,5% / **67,6%**
- Excessive exposure to 41,2% / **control 52,9%**
- Comercial stands and volumen of speakers 38,2%



### BEFORE COMPETITION

- Blood in mouth 88,3%
- Relaxing and stretching 58,8%
- Antidoping 38,2%
- Green areas 55,9%
- N° showers 38,2% / **35,3%**